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TITLE : COATING AGENT

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a coating agent consisting mainly of a specific yeast cell wall fraction, with no stickiness or its viscosity when finished, free from mutual adherence after coated, and extremely low in oxygen permeability.

SOLUTION: This coating agent is such one as to consist mainly of a yeast cell wall fraction comprising microbial cell residues as a result of removing soluble intracellular components from enzyme-treated yeast. This coating agent is obtained, for example, according to the following procedure: beer yeast slurry as a byproduct from brewery is obtained, being subjected to centrifugal separation at 4,500 rpm for 10 min, the resultant muddy raw yeast is then suspended in water so as to be 5 wt.% in solid content; subsequently, the resulting suspension is autolyzed at 50°C for 17 h and then subjected to centrifugal separation again to remove soluble intracellular components; the resultant autolysis residues is used as the above-mentioned yeast cell wall fraction which is then dispersed in water so as to be 10 wt.% in solid content, and glycerol as plasticizer is dispersed in the water as well so that the glycerol accounts for 15 wt.% of the yeast cell wall fraction on a solid basis.

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